



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

HUEY P. LONG

PART 5 OF 7

FILE NUMBER: 62-32509
SECTIONS: 8 THRU 10

62-32509

Section

8

Department of Justice
Office of the Assistant to the Attorney General
Washington

July 13, 1939

Mr. Coffey
Mr. Dunn
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Gray
Mr. Herbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawler
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM TO MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Attached hereto is an anonymous letter dated June 28, 1939, which was mailed in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Please take such action as you may deem the above-mentioned communication warrants.

Matthew F. McGuire
Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney

8/16/39
See. 71-6.

Act

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INDEXED

62-32507-211

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 4 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DECEIVED
DATE
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Eden Hardie, Jr.
U.S. District Attorney
Post Office Bldg
New Orleans, La.

Dear Citizen:-

Congratulations on your desire to investigate some of the THEFTS
of GOVERNMENT FUNDS on PWA and WPA projects in Louisiana.

I trust as in old timer when the U.S. Grand Jury started something like this they generally went to the BAT, and some one always had several HOME BURNS in the Penn. I hope you gentlemen revive the confidence in the American People by bringing to account some of those well thought of gentlemen that have become lower than the Highway Thief.

Right in our midst, we have some very startling facts to face, BUT, I hope that the exposure of Dr Smith, which is only a little part of the THEFTS will not grant the U.S. Grand Jury the opportunity to SMOKE SCREEN the other larger offenses.

Take the CHARITY HOSPITAL, where the Board is failing Head of Heels to accept that ABORTION of ABORTION on the American Public.

Do you know that in the plumbing and other piping parts of that building that never has a test, I mean an actual test of Water in Water Pipes and Steam and other things been tested actually in those pipes.

Do you know that on NON-COMPETITIVE products that Dr Bel's assistant has been accustomed to say, to a Business house, "WHAT IS YOUR PRICE?" and when told would say what is 15% of that cost, and when told would say, well Mr Blank, you go ahead, and when you give me that amount 15% in Cash, I will approve your bill.

And do you know that these ADD-DUCTS or DX-DUCTS are split among the whole board, take that purchasing Agent, Dumaine, and half negro put him to the test, feed him "ICE CREAM AND CAKE", like Chief Groucho says he feeds the criminals to get a confession, and I think that you can make that BIRD flap his wings.

Do you know that Dr Bel and duAudory are the ACT-PARTICIPANTS IN the Graft.

But, don't leave the Jews out, like Shushan and Hart and Weiss, they get theirs.

I will tell you something hot, yet, the New PWA project in Jefferson Parish, Gretna, La. the School Board split \$ 32,000.00 on the sites that they offer as their part of the PWA grant. And here is how it was done, taking up property for this Project, a piece of property was bought, the owner said he wanted \$ 2,000.00 they took an option for \$ 2,500.00 and paid cash down of \$ 500.00, and when it was taken in the deal for the School it was listed as \$ 12,500.00 and many more were handled the same way. Of course they will say that they did not take PWA Money but they did RAIDER the PWA in the land values as their part of the project. And Justice Archie Higgins and his family was in on this.

Boys you have a large job before you, I hope that they give you Ice Water and Air-Conditioning rooms to work in, because things on your table will sure heat up the atmosphere of your rooms.

Now that we have an opportunity, lets clean HOUSE.

I would give you my name and address but if I did, my life would not be worth the cost of having a linen suit cleaned.

I see Mayor Maestri paid the New Gov. a visit with the KING of Lottery and GAMBLING OPERATION IN NEW ORLEANS.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 4

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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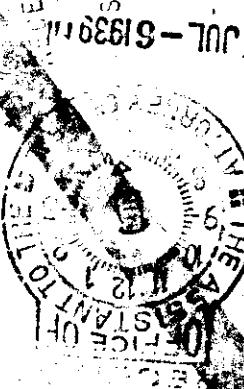
DON'T LET VIOSCA SUE TRACK YOU . YOU KNOW HE WANT
MANFREDI TO O.K. HIM FOR THE JUDGESHIP AND ROOSEVELT
HAS AGREED THAT NONE SHALL BE CONSIDERED UNLESS THAT
EL. PROSTITUTE PIMP NOW MAYOR MANFREDI FORSHIS O.K.

A FINE KETTLE OF FISH THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS BECOME
BITCHED TO. PIRATES, THIEVES AND DEGENERATES NO WONDER

ROOSEVELT LOOKS LIKE A THIEF HIMSELF.

PRESIDENT WILSON ONCE SAID: " OUR CIVILIZATION CAN'T
IMPROVE MATERIALLY UNLESS WE IMPROVE THAT SPIRITUAL."

U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 7 1939



The Home Insurance Company

OFFICES IN HYDE BUILDING

INSURES EVERYTHING INSURABLE, KEEPS IT INSURED

PLACE YOUR ORDER, HAVE YOUR RISKS UNDERWRITTEN BY US

AUG 21 1939

ATTORNEY GE

THERE ARE TWO CLASSES: ONE PROTECTS LIFE AND BUSINESS INTERESTS BEFORE ACCIDENTS OCCUR; THE OTHER NURSES REGRETS AND LOSSES AFTERWARDS

Winnfield, Louisiana 7-29-39.

Mr. Frank Murphy, Atty. Gen., U. S.,
New Orleans, La.
Dear Mr. Murphy:-

I had a conference on yesterday with Mr. R. P. Parker, Crowville, Franklin Parish, La. Mr. Parker is a leading citizen, thoroughly reliable, well posted, and probably knows more of the inside workings of the "machine" than any man in his parish. He is heartily in favor of apprehending and sending to prison all of malefactors, but he has little if any confidence in the state courts doing any more than the force of public opinion forces them to do. He recounted numerous violations of the law, politicalization of the relief organizations, the purchase of votes in congressional election in 1938, the padding of the payrolls with names just before the election, and after election dropping them etc.

I asked his permission to direct your attention to the matter. He assured me it met with his hearty approval, and that he would be very glad to furnish all the evidence in his possession to an investigator, if only one should be sent to him.

The "machine" extends its ramifications into the every parish in the state. Political "machines" are identical wherever they may exist, perpetuate themselves and rob the tax payer to the uttermost limit. If they are to be broken up, the federal government must do it. The states are not going to do it.

There is plenty that can be uncovered in every parish in the state, if a good sleuth is put on the job. It will require some time and not a little expense. If democratic government is to continue, and it is, these "machines" that plunder and steal "to the last drop" must be destroyed.

The relief organizations in Louisiana are honeycombed with fraud, and are employed also as recruiting stations for the perpetuation of present conditions, intolerable as they are.

Yours truly,

- B. W. Bailey.

8/16/39- Lef.

n.c.

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INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 5 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM TMC



Hon. Mr. Murphy

U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.

United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

EAT:GVC

August 3, 1939

Time: 10:05 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Dear

I called Special Agent Dunker in New Orleans in connection with Mr. Boggs' request that the FBI investigate a certain Grand Juror. I told Mr. Dunker you had authorized this investigation and the investigation could be initiated immediately.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 4 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Harry Jacobs, Levee Board Engineer 1937-38, used WPA labor and Louisiana Highway trucks to haul sand to elevate his property, about 14 months work, in St. Bernard Parish. WPA fences were bought for state park in St. Tammany Parish. Material was hauled and deposited on state park grounds, subsequently Leche and Rankin appropriated enough of this fencing to fence in a large area of their property. Leche used highway tractors, trucks and WPA labor to build bridges on his property in 1938-39. Rankin used WPA labor to build his fences and planted trees dug up from Salmen Lumber Co.'s land which adjoins his property near state park.

The Hero family in Plaquemines parish have spent thousands of dollars improving and ditching their own property. This work has been going on for three years. 1/14.

Leche caused to be distributed to families on the Atchafalaya River carloads of gravel in exchange for subscriptions to the Progress. Every family between Melville and Simmsport were given gravel to build roads on their private property by orders of Leche to Harmus Zeringue who lives at Melville and distributed this gravel. Leche moved from New Orleans a barber and fitted him up with a house near his place to shave he and Bushan. This man wears a State Board of Health badge.

The State Board of Health has employed in New Orleans a lot of gamblers who pose as health inspectors (who are secret service men) for the administration. They have such gangs in every parish in the State where thousands of dollars of State money goes to pay these burglars. Austin Fontenot of Opelousas, Louisiana, is the instructor for men so employed. Some of these gamblers leave the State of Louisiana and follow the races up North for four to six months and continue to draw their pay as Board of Health inspectors.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Leche has received thousands of dollars to release convicts from the State penitentiary. One convict told this informant that he was released by his relatives paying \$500.00 to Leche's go-betweens in the month of May, 1939.

The informant would like to know and the public at large what became of all the oil lands donated to the Charity Hospital from the estate of Wisner and Dresser. From all accounts, a good many oil wells producing on this property, wells owned by the Texas Oil Company, are not paying any royalties. If so, who has this money? The Texas Oil Company has been drilling wells on this property back of Lafitte, south to the Gulf. What has become of all of the oil lands formerly owned by the State, which were sold to whitewash organizations in the ranks of the State officials from Noe down to the present day?

The City of New Orleans is buying asphalt that is being mined in Georgia. Two of the men interested in this concern are connected with the City administration and a third by the name of Caldwell living in Atlanta or Birmingham (not related to the local Caldwells). This asphalt is being sold to Graven & Land by these individuals at a handsome profit. If Hampton Reynolds and Crutcher were investigated and these shipments traced to origin and the prices ascertained for this product at origin and the price New Orleans is paying for it, you would readily see the extent of the graft.

In 1937 Leche painted the names off eight State trucks and put his name on side of trucks to haul bricks from Charity Hospital site to his home in Covington. Sushan did the same thing with Orleans Levee Board trucks to haul bricks from Charity Hospital to his home near Covington. These bricks were demolished with WPA labor. Leche also used WPA labor to haul these bricks to his home site. Leche used WPA labor for landscaping building site.

Charity Hospital foundation should have had about 9000 piles or better. A good many of these piles, or 7000 of such piles, should have been driven sixty feet into the ground but the majority of them driven at night were driven about 30 feet and cut off, with the approval of the architects inspector who is the worst crook in the State of Louisiana. In some instances the cut-offs were long enough to be used as piling. A lot of these facts can be substantiated by getting in touch with Mr. E. A. Cotton, Walnut 1760-W, New Orleans, who was the rivet inspector on the job and refused to be bribed.

The writer hopes that you as an agent of your department will put public duty and honesty above all selfish desires and check into these various leads which are bona fide and bring the guilty to account for their deeds of crookedness and distrust.

In the informant's opinion the Federal Government is a dam sight more rotten than the state government, and we hope that this investigation will bring out some future men who are honest and not traitors to their obligations. I am three score and ten years and will later on disclose my identity when the above disclosures have been acted upon. I have based the latter remarks on the investigations made by Viosca, the Federal attorney, when ~~he~~ he threw out Chester Martin's case against the State and (Federal) WPA when he made the remark that there was nothing to it. Viosca is one of the State's gang who could not make a living until he was given this position by the Federal Government. He is no more fit to be entrusted with these duties any more than Leche or any other local politician. The whole United States knows that this investigation and trial is taking place between a bunch of thieves where one-half is trying the other half, and the most stupid of human beings cannot guess the results unless, as I have stated above, some of you fellows who have the opportunity keep this democracy intact and stand out as our forefathers did. However, if the men who have been indicted or implicated were found guilty and punished and proper means taken at the next election to see that the votes are not substituted, then the old gang would not drift back into office. With a fair account of things their getting back into office would be an impossibility

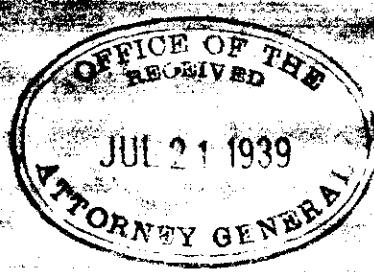
because these scandals have brought out an interest in State affairs to make the least interested individual want to straighten out the destinies of our State.

CEILING FANS
CULATING ICE WATER

A. P. GARDNER
MANAGER

Hotel
Gardner

SHREVEPORT, LA.



Dear Sir

alfred Gleason ran 2,500,000 bbls
hot oil from Pekin Line in Paderborn
in partnership with State of Prussia
Arch Kaynes ran 16000 bbls daily for
months in Paderborn (not all when the
allowable was 300 bbls)
These operators made possible a recent
agreement with State of Prussia, Rauchert
Cessna unregulated, of rents of
free management & in 4 months
declare Supreme West purchased
its stock although so compact
as bonds being paid in upon NO
It looks now like an fraud & will be
discovered

8/16/39
Set. N. O.
Act

To Frank Murphy,
Attn: Your Atty
Washington, D.C.

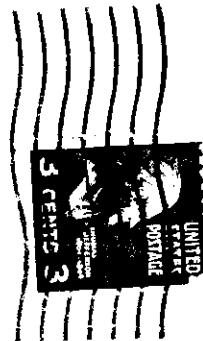
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 4 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Hon. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Washington, D. C.



21456

JUL 23 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Gowen
Mr. Hodges
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawler
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sease
Mr. Quinn Thomas
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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62-32509-208

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 25 1939

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-23-39 5-02 PM AHS

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CHRISTENBERRY, FORMER SECRETARY TO HUEY P. LONG AND BROTHER OF ~~SO~~
ASSISTANT U. S. ATTORNEY HERBERT CHRISTENBERRY AT NEW ORLEANS,
APPOINTED SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR EARL K. LONG, EFFECTIVE TOMORROW.
A. B. PATTERSON, HEAD OF NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC SERVICE, INC., OFFERED
POSITION PRESIDENT OF NEW ORLEANS DOCK BOARD, FROM WHICH POSITION
SEYDUR WEISS RESIGNED JULY TWENTY FIRST. DR. CLARENCE LORIO PRESENTLY
UNDER INDICTMENT IN STATE COURT RESIGNED FROM POSITION PRESIDENT
LOUISIANA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY AND DR. D. B. BARBER, FORMER VICE
PRESIDENT, APPOINTED PRESIDENT. GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS IN NEW ORLEANS
REPORTED CLOSING, BUT REASON FOR THIS PRESENTLY UNKNOWN. W. B. ANDREWS,
FORMER HEAD OF IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, LOUISIANA STATE POLICE, APPOINTED
CHIEF OF ~~SO~~ POLICE AT PELTON ROUGE LATE YESTERDAY.

SAC-ET

END

ON FBI MAIL DC SRN

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Mr. Frank Murphy.
U.S. Attorney General of the
United States of America
Washington, D.C.

21457

OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
MAY 12 1939
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Mr Murphy:-

On May the 29th., you were in New Orleans in company with Mr J. Edgar Hoover, the Great ACE of Criminal Detectors.

You on that occasion spoke to the newspaper men as to the cure for the evils of Democracy.

RECORDED & INDEXED 162-31509-20
On May the 30th., the N.O. Daily States carried an editorial that hit the spot of the common people of this State and the U.S. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Since that time with credit to the same paper and its morning associate the Times-Picayune there has been uncovered a small part of the crime that is carried on by the HIGHER-UPS in this state that is the Politicians and the business people and merchants as well as the people interested in GOOD clear government while they look with disgust on the manner of operation they fear the personal results if THEY DARED TO OPEN THEIR MOUTHS

It would seem that now the U.S. Departments are in on this investigation, BUT.... will it be another waste of money ? Some years ago the Gov'mg, while you were in Michigan as their Governor, made a minute investigation on some of the vice and corruption in this state, BUT what did it amount to --- one Jos Fisher went to Atlanta for a short while, a small fry.... BUT .. what... became of those others that were more guilty ?

Nelson Bros, Abe Shushan, Semour Weiss and other thaty were not brought to light.... You should well know for the records are in Washington under the Title:- " THE SECOND LOUISIANA PURCHASE" and who was the instigator of this greater crime,.... Mr Roosevelt. For their Congressmen's and Senators vote on his New Deal Schemes he had that weakling of a Dist Atty non-pross the criminal charges but the civil charges (change of money) was collected. You know Jesus Christ drove the money changers out of the TEMPLE, would it not be interesting to have this great act re-enacted.

Now, the people are now thinking and expressing the though that you will get ORDERS to soft petal the investigation now being carried on by the several departments.

However you must be congratulated on your first brave act; of refusing to hand over to the State District Attorneys your files on the charges that you have against these criminal much worse than any Dillinger, Capone or Karpis.

Your District Attorney is first a weakling of the first water, and surrounding him are a crew of appointments at the behest of one BOB MAESTRI who to-day and since this investigation have been taking such information that they can get in their official connection and are passing it on to the HIGHER-UPS like Maestri and his gang of WHITE COLLAR THUGS. Therefore if you ever expect to reach a reasonable point of actually doing things with these criminals you had better stop the leaks out of your New Orleans District Attorney's office .

Talking about "DE-DUCTS" Mr Tom Hill the former collector perhaps don't know became tired of collections and not getting his so he last year made a raid on that Safety Deposit Box, and is reported to have taken about \$ 350,000.00 and after being away for several weeks returned as told the gang, Maestri and Leche and Weiss that he was there what the hell were they going to do, and dared them to fail to pay his salary check of \$1,000. 00 per month. Tom Hill told them then that he had a record of everything and that if they "BUMPED HIM OFF" that a certain person would sell to the papers the entire facts that would not look good in PRINT.

Talk about PWA and WPA investigations, why not look into the painting of the Maestri property on Orleans Ave and the Cave New Home and the Pratt new home all have been guilty and by the way the Semour Weiss Dairy at Paridis, La. all constructed on WPA material and labor.

Shushan and Weiss I hope have not bought you and the others over they are likewise users of PWA and WPA material and workmen.

ALL INFORMATION
HEREIN IS CONFIDENTIAL
DO NOT ENCLOSE AN ATTACHED
ENVELOPE AND MAIL

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Sect.
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AC

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Talk about investigations, that's what I called it, and in the 6th district was the plainest STEAL, they loaded the ballot boxes and would not let anyone see the count, in fact made up the count themselves. No investigation was made and that was all but at that time MR ROOSEVELT WAS CONSUMING THE 2nd LOUISIANA PURCHASE AND LECHE WAS HIS MOUTHPIECE. 1458

YOU SPOKE OF VICE, GAMBLING AND CRIME IN THE PARTISAN POLITICS,.... WELL did you know WHY.... Mr Guerre chief of the State Police insisted that his criminal Murphy Roden (Webster Dictionary says this work means "RAT") be the one to bring back Dr Smith, well here is the facts.... they knew that the Air-Skip only held four people, and that Dr Smith's wife would be brought back in their AUTO... and WHY.... because RODEN (RAT) intended to return with Smith and in the trip up in the Air he RAT *RODEN would abuse and curse Smith and it would result in Smith being thrown over board and then claim that Dr Smith leaped from the plane. The gang fear Smith talking, and right now Smith knows that his life is surer in JAIL than on the streets of any town of Louisiana.

RODEN (RAT) and Messini now the Chief of the Dock Board Police killed Huey for the gang and they would not stop at anything where they could stop a wagging tongue.

WILL THIS BE ANOTHER OR 3rd PURCHASE OF LOUISIANA, YOU KNOW THESE UNDERWORLD CHARACTER LIKE MAESTRI THE CHIEF CONTACT MAN OF JIM FARLEY AND ROOSEVELT WILL STOP AT NOTHING.

THE RESULTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE THE MAKING OR BREAKING OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN 1940.

Two years ago when the FBI was on the heel of the BOPE KING and would have had to arrest Mayor Maestri, why was the whole FBI crew called off ?
Pressure from Washington.

And so we are compelled to make a stand against the corruption made by the administration on vice and corruption, and we are compelled to do this, because of the administration's failure to do its duty. We hope that Mr. Murphy will do his best to expose the administration and prosecute those with the administration for their income taxes and go on their devastating way. We hope, however, that Mr. Murphy is sincere in his effort to stamp out municipal, state and national corruption by killing at the fountain-head the gambling base of America.

And so we say to Mr. Murphy, if you are
now in trying to clean up. Are you going
to stop? Believing that gambling is the
cause of political corruption, yesterday you
cleared a splendid field for your communi-
cate work.

Quoting something or other, somebody else, may be it was Sir Walter Scott in "The Lady of the Lake," and paraphrasing the words a little:

And darest thou then to beard the tiger
In his den,
The gambler in his hall?"

Mr. Murphy talked yesterday in a city familiar with all kinds of gambling and all kinds of ballot box stuffing. If he is sincere in his effort to stamp out the cause of corruption, he could have thrown a rock from his window and smashed the windows of several gambling halls, one of them the biggest in the South. He could have taken a ride around the city and played all kinds of gigs and saddles in all kinds of lottery shops, from the tiny hole in the wall to the palatial rooms where the Lords of Chance preside.

He could have walked along the streets and heard the call boys tell when the ponies were off, and how they progressed as they dashed around the ovals throughout America. This information was furnished them by a nationwide news service which circulates such information in all cities throughout the country.

If Mr. Murphy is a good detective, and incidentally he had the head G-man, Mr. Hoover, with him, he could have learned how, here in New Orleans, bookmakers are charged a certain amount for race-track service, and only a part of this money finds its way into the pockets of the owners and operators of this service. Where the balance of the money goes is a mystery; but, since the race track closed, there have been no handbook raids by the police.

How forgetful we are! Mr. Murphy, if he had toured the city in quest of information regarding gambling and vice, he should by all means have met the dark-skinned "Mr. Beansie," who could have told him lots of things if he had been so inclined about gambling operations in New Orleans, and about his alliances with certain white political big shots.

If Mr. Murphy had cared to take a ride to adjoining parishes, he could have seen many palatial gambling halls. He could have seen a parking lot for automobiles connected with one of these resorts, which was paved with state gravel, tar and sand, the work done by state employees, and the contract expedited by the use of state trucks and machinery.

Mr. Murphy could have had photographic proof of this job and for which no one has been punished.

Darest Thou Then—

12-32509-208

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 22 1939

TELETYPE

DECODED COPY

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Crowley.....
Mr. Harbo.....
Mr. Lester.....
Mr. Lawler.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Sears.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Miss Gandy.....

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FBI NEW ORLEANS, LA.

JULY 22, 1939

710 PM TM

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING. FEDERAL GRAND JURY
NEW ORLEANS RECESSED UNTIL MONDAY WHEN THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO HEAR
TESTIMONY RELATIVE JAMES MONROE SMITH BOND TRANSACTIONS AND TESTIMONY
IN HOT OIL INVESTIGATION. O JOHN ROGGE LEFT FOR WASHINGTON TODAY
SCHEDULED RETURN NEW ORLEANS ON THE TWENTYSEVENTH. HILLERY J GAUDIN
ASSISTANT U S ATTORNEY NEW ORLEANS HAS AGREED TO RESIGN. SEYMOUR
WEISS HAS RESIGNED FROM PUBLIC OFFICES HELD.

B. E. SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASH DC JPO

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62-32509-207X3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
JUL 25 1939	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
WAM	1WU

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SAT:DM

JULY 12, 1939

Chief Clerk, U. S. Post Office
New Orleans

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith copies of an anonymous letter addressed to the Attorney General under date of June 12, 1939, from Earpport, Louisiana, for reference to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawler
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ JUL 12 1939 ★
P. M.
Copies sent to Bureau of Investigation
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

62-32509-20
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 13 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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TO THE HONORABLE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON D. C.
MR. Henry MURPHY ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority personally came and appeared : Miss Agnes E. Lewis & Annie C. Lewis Who after being first duly sworn deposed and said That the Heirs of the Succession of Mr. & Mrs John B. Lewis have been penalized pauperized and destituted by the corrupt acts the several Officials acting as Agents for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration tripple AAA ; Operating illegally and fraudulently in cooperation with the County Agent N.E. Williams et als of Iberia Parish and the Local Committees composed of personally adversely interested clerical parties Howard J. Olivier of the 2nd Ward et als and several aggressive itinerant persons of Iberia Parish who have invaded the private fields of the Private Estate of the Heirs of the Succession of the said Mr. & Mrs John B. Lewis late bone fide registered Owners in joint Community of accuets and gains of the Plantation Ave Maries commonly known as the John B. Lewis being situated in the Parish of Iberia State of Louisiana

Department further deposed and said that there has been repeated acts of violence and deprivations committed on said Farm which has been illegally and unlawfully invaded by discriminating unjustly by virtue of the Tripple AAA and its duly authorized Agents and in which special mention is made of one F. W. Spencer of lawful age and a resident of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and being designated as the Administrative Agent at the L.S.U. of the J. W. Bateman, who with one Marcel J. Voorhies of the Sugar District of Louisiana have deliberately systematically wilfully feloniously knowingly intentionally misused the name of the Heirs of the said Estate and name of the Succession of Mr. & Mrs John B. Lewis No. 2918 & 2525 & purported fraud estate 3487 of Miss Alberta Lewis with intent to and have defrauded the " TESTATE ESTATE & SUCCESSIONS # 2918 - " of which the Beneficiary Heirs and joint coowners are the sole Creditors And that there has been maladministration of Federal Government Crop benefit Funds and a demand is made for a probe and investigation of fraud and illegal acts committed by said persons et als disguised and which has been a monopoly of trade in violation of the Anti Tri

All against the Intent of the AAA & Other Federal and State Laws of United States of America.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of July, 1939 Miss Agnes E. Lewis Notary Public

Lee Scott Camp N

Department of Louisiana

United Spanish War Veterans

BATON ROUGE, LA.

Miss Agnes E. Lewis
New Orleans, La
c/o gen Delivery

Return Receipt Requested
Fee Paid

REGISTERED

478

Department of Justice
to Mr. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Washington D

New Orleans, La.
July 14, 1939.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: MONTE E. HART; et al; MAIL FRAUD

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

For the past two days I have been trying to obtain some coherent, concise details relating to the mail fraud case which U. S. Attorney VIOSCA believes exists against the above named individuals and which he considers the most important case to have indicted and prosecuted at this time, as mentioned in my teletypes.

It was almost an impossible task, since there have been no reports submitted as such, the various Assistant U. S. Attorneys have conducted inquiries relative to the matter, as have agents of the Internal Revenue Service and various persons have testified before the Grand Jury, the transcript of testimony not having been completely written up. It was not possible to get the details from any one individual, since none of this information or evidence had been correlated and existed principally in the minds of the various officials rather than in writing.

After some insistence on my part, MR. VIOSCA had the Internal Revenue agents submit a summary of all of the work they did on this case, and also submit to MR. VIOSCA copies of the statements they had taken from those defendants and prospective witnesses in connection with this matter that they have interviewed. I secured copies of these statements and I also secured the transcripts of the testimony which was already written up concerning the testimony of some of these people before the Grand Jury, and also had Special Agent WEEKS in addition to myself, interview the various Assistant U. S. Attorneys to try to secure as many facts as possible concerning this case.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Based upon all this conglomeration of information, the last of which we did not succeed in obtaining until 6:30 tonight, we have attempted to prepare a summary report, as closely as possible to

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11-21-40

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age 2 - Director

July 14, 1939.

that which we would prepare based upon our own investigations. In an effort to give you as nearly as we can determine from these sources aforementioned the details of the alleged scheme to defraud, the use of the mails, the substance of the indictment proposed to be returned by U. S. Attorney VIOSCA, the names of the apparently necessary witnesses, the apparent substance of their testimony, together with a summary of the information apparently furnished by the subjects at the time they were interviewed by agents of the Internal Revenue Service.

It should be noted that our Bureau did not conduct any investigation whatsoever concerning this matter. It will be seen from the summary that there are a number of instances wherein the identity and details of the testimony of necessary witnesses are not known. It is entirely possible and probable that there are other necessary and important witnesses who should be listed as witnesses, however, the identity of such persons is not known to us, and is not included in any of the written matter obtained by us or in any of the oral information furnished us.

In addition to the Bureau's copies of the summary report submitted in this matter by Agent WEEKS, I am enclosing for your information herewith the following:

- 1 - Copy of a report from the Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service dated July 14, 1939, to the U. S. Attorney, summarizing his investigation.
- 2 - Copy of a proposed rough draft form indictment which U. S. Attorney VIOSCA expects to have returned in this case by the Federal Grand Jury.
- 3 - Copy of a memorandum of U. S. Attorney VIOSCA dated July 13, 1939, from Acting Special Agent in Charge FRANK W. LOHN of the Internal Revenue Service.
- 4 - Copy of a statement obtained by Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service from M. E. HART dated April 14, 1939.
- 5 - Copy of a statement obtained by Internal Revenue agents from M. E. HART dated July 12, 1939.

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Page 3 - Director

July 14, 1939.

6 - Copy of a statement obtained from JOHN SMOKY ADAMS by Internal Revenue agents dated July 12, 1939.

7 - Copy of a statement obtained from LEON O. WEEKS by Internal Revenue agents dated July 13, 1939.

Some of the statements described above contain information and refer to income tax matters and other matters not involved in this mail fraud case, however, they are being submitted for your information to show the complete details obtained from these persons. These are the only copies of statements obtained by the Internal Revenue Agents which are in my possession.

I am not sending you the transcript of the Grand Jury testimony given by the persons who testified before that body relative to this mail fraud scheme. In the first place, only a portion of this testimony has been written up, therefore, I cannot furnish a complete testimony of all witnesses. Secondly, the testimony which has been written up has been analyzed and pertinent substance included in the summary report, also I do not believe it safe to send such testimony unless it is registered, since the Grand Jury has not returned any indictments as yet and it is too late to register it to night. If you desire this testimony I will be glad to furnish it after all transcripts have been completed and you request same.

Some of the information furnished in the summary report as set out under the names of various witnesses was obtained from a perusal of this Grand Jury testimony, since written statements allegedly made by those persons were not available to us. However, the summary report does not show in any manner that the Grand Jury testimony was available to us or that the same was summarized or included in the report in any manner.

I trust that this will give you a picture of this case and the probable witnesses available to prove the mail fraud offense. Your authority is requested for me to furnish a copy of the summary report of Agent WEEKS to the U. S. Attorney at New Orleans for his information and assistance in connection with this matter, since this summary report is, to my knowledge, the only written report of any kind or description which even attempts to summarize the whole situation and set out the witnesses necessary to prove

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Page 4 - Director

July 14, 1938.

same and what they may testify to.

Sincerely yours,

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.

BES:WH
36-38

1308 Masonic Temple Building,
New Orleans, Louisiana

August 1, 1939

Honorable Rene Viosca,
United States Attorney,
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Viosca:

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS
Information Concerning

For your information and such attention as you deem appropriate, I am enclosing herewith a copy of a memorandum which is unsigned, but which was prepared by an attorney in New Orleans whose name is unknown to me, dealing with the law concerning the issuance of Orleans Levee Board bonds. This memorandum was given to me in confidence by Mr. Clark Salmon, Managing Editor of the Item-Tribune newspapers, who received same from an attorney whose name he did not disclose.

It was Mr. Salmon's thought that we might be interested in this information in connection with any investigation which may be or is being conducted concerning subject matter.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SAGNETT,
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure
BES:sh
#62-978
cc Bureau - Enclosure

INDEXED

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The Sunday edition of the Picayune carries a copy of the "offer" of Newman Harris to the Levee board to undertake the refunding work. The Levee Board "accepted" the offer, as will be noted at the bottom of the offer. If the "acceptance" of the offer constituted the "resolution" as required by law, was this "resolution" submitted to the Governor and the Attorney General for their approval, as required by law? If the amount of fees was indefinite, was not this in itself a violation of law in that the Act referred to in the attached memorandum requires that the compensation be "designated" by the Governor and the Attorney General after a full explanation of the reason for the employment of special counsel or for rendering "special services"?

The offer of Newman Harris should be carefully read and studied in relation to the attached memorandum. But note the word "employment" in that offer, the engagement to be for special services.

Act 125 of 1912 as amended by Act No. 341 of 1938 specifically provides that no special attorney or counsel shall be employed by political sub-divisions of the State, including the Orleans Levee Board with additional compensation therefrom, but said Board or political sub-division may employ special attorneys or special counsel "in the event it should be necessary to protect the public's interest..... on the joint written approval of the Governor and Attorney General of the State (and said Boards or political sub-divisions may) pay only such compensation as the Governor and Attorney General may designate in said written approval, the said approval to be given only on their discretion of the application of said Board..... by resolution thereof setting forth fully the reasons for the proposed retention or employment of such special attorneys or counsel and the amount of the proposed compensation, provided the Governor and the Attorney General shall not ratify or approve any action of such Board in employing any special attorneys or counsel or paying any compensation for special services rendered, unless all formalities as provided by this Act as to resolutions, etc., have been complied with.

The Attorney General of Louisiana under date of October 19th, 1934, rendered an opinion that the Parish of Livingston (a political sub-division of this State) has no authority to employ a person who is not an attorney at law to render legal services necessary to the refunding of certain bonded indebtedness of that Parish, setting forth his reasons as follows:

"1. Act 202 of 1932 prohibits anyone who is not a natural person, duly and regularly licensed and admitted to practice law by the Supreme Court of this State, from practicing law; and the procedure necessary for refunding bonds would be practicing law within the definition of the practice of law contained in that Act.

"2. Under Sections 2 and 3 of Act 125 of 1912, the Police Jury may not employ special counsel until it is made to appear by a resolution of the Police Jury that there is a real necessity for such employment, the resolution stating fully the reasons for such action and the compensation to be paid, and to be spread upon the minutes and published in the official journal; and until the Police Jury has obtained the joint written approval of the Governor and the Attorney General, who shall fix the compensation to be paid."

This act was upheld by the Court of Appeal of the Parish of Orleans, Judge McCaleb speaking, in the case of an insurance agent who sought to adjust an insurance claim under a contract for such special services to be rendered to the beneficiary of an insurance policy. The Act is known as the Act defining the practice of law. "It specifically prohibits the solicitation of legal business either for the benefit of the solicitor or for an attorney or attorneys".

"7410. Violations of act by attorneys and members of boards—penalty.— The District attorneys who shall refuse or wilfully fail to perform the duties required of them by this act or wilfully fail to render faithful and efficient services in such regard shall be deemed guilty of malfeasance and gross misconduct and removal from office in the manner prescribed by law, and the members of police juries, parish school boards, and state boards or commissions aforesaid, who shall violate any of the provisions of this act, and any attorney or counsellor who shall knowingly accept such prohibited employment or compensation shall be deemed guilty as principals of a misdemeanor and on conviction sentenced to pay a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), and imprisoned for not less than ten (10) nor more than ninety (90) days and in addition thereto the members of such boards or commissions shall be deemed guilty of malfeasance and removed from office in the manner prescribed by law, if elected by the people, and by the governor or other prescribed authority, if appointed. (Acts 1912, No. 125, 4)".

(While levee boards are not specifically included in this Section, unquestionably the word "aforesaid", as it appears in the Section embraces the wording "including levee boards" as the same appears specifically in Section 1, quoted in part above.)

"7411. Special services for officers by attorney general.— The governor may in his discretion require and direct the attorney general to render any police jury, parish school board, or state board any special services in any matter and when deemed necessary in the case of a state board or commission to assume full charge and control of all legal proceedings relating to such matter. (Act 1912, No. 125, 5.)"

(Note, the same conclusion set forth in the foot-note on the section quoted doubtless applies to this section of the Act. From the last quoted section it may be observed readily that the Governor may direct the Attorney General to render to any of the boards named in the Act "any special services in any matter", and to go farther and "assume full charge and control of all legal proceedings relating to such matter". The attorney general in the opinion above cited specifically denoted all refunding proceedings of political sub-divisions as "legal proceedings", which are prohibited from being handled by any one other than attorneys at law. The Levee Board had and has regularly paid attorneys. Where were these attorneys and what services did they perform in the refunding "to protect the public interest"?)

The following questions are pertinent to the refunding of the Orleans Levee Board, a discussion of which has appeared in the local papers:

1. Who are the regularly employed legal counsel of the Orleans Levee Board?
2. What special counsel, if any, were employed by the Orleans Levee Board?
3. Was special counsel compensated over and above the fee paid Newman-Harris and Company and in what sum?
4. If Newman-Harris agreed to pay special counsel out of their fee who were and are their counsel and how much were they paid?
5. Was a formal resolution employing Newman-Harris and/or special counsel passed by the Orleans Levee Board and approved by the Governor and Attorney General as required by law?
6. Did the State Bond and Tax Board approve the refunding?
7. Assuming that the State Bond and Tax Board did approve the refunding, was a copy of the refunding resolution submitted to the State Bond and Tax Board pursuant to their practice or requirement set up by that Board since its inception?
8. If the Levee Board submitted its refunding plan to the State Bond and Tax Board in 1936, both ex-governor Leche and Governor Long then were members of that Board and were required by law to approve or disapprove the refunding plan. How now can either of them say they "don't know anything about it"?
9. If the resolution employing "special counsel" or for the employment of anyone to render "special services" was not submitted to the Governor (Leche at the time) and the Attorney General (Porterie at the time) was not the afore-cited Act (125 of 1912) violated by ignoring its provisions and requirements?
10. If the resolution for employing special counsel or for rendering

"special services" was submitted to the Governor and the Attorney General, did those officials set the fees at \$449,000.00? Under the Act (125 of 1912) they are required to "recommend the amount of compensation to be paid."

Baton Rouge
July 4th 1939

#1455

Mr. Frank Murphy
Hon. Attorney General
Was with you D. C.
Dear Sir

62-32509-207

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
July 2 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED & INDEXED

my sister to you.
Lewis & myself are
inclosing and request
you to sign
by us both of which we
ask your personal &
most attention in a
matter of which we
are suffering an injustice
through no fault of
our own which is known
about in the course
of the United States
Agricultural Adjustment
Board Control H. H.
myself the County
Agricultural Agent
attor. G. L. W. Spencer

of the Local Progressive
of Baton Rouge
have convened
for action under the
authority of the 16th
Judicial District Court
of New Iberia who
has issued such
an imprudent & short
order has been dismissed
as acting without
authority with intent
to defraud legal
forces of evid-
ence rights & who
have used such
tactics to accomplish
these ends & have
not administered
by overruling them
it may cause an order
of action to be made -

Very Respectfully
Johnstone G. Lewis

ACH:AI

62-32509

August 4, 1939

RECORDED

Miss Agnes E. Lewis
General Delivery
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Miss Lewis:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 11, 1939, addressed to Honorable Frank Murphy, Attorney General, which have been referred to this Bureau for attention.

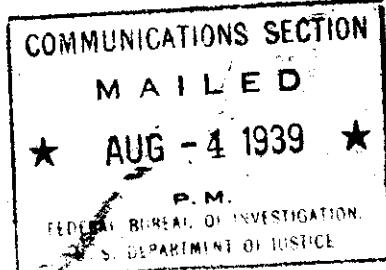
I wish to advise that the information as contained in your letters is being referred to United States Attorney F. A. Viosca, at New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

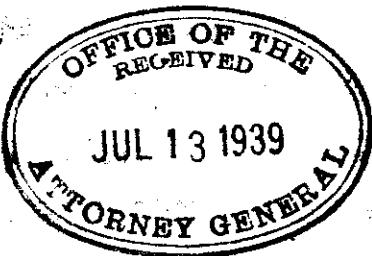
John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - New Orleans

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Crowl.....
Mr. Harbo.....
Mr. Lester.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Quinn.....
Mr. Quinn.....

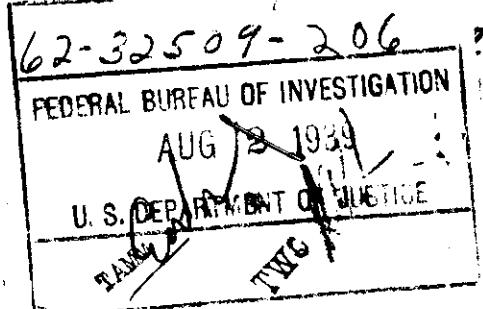


7/13/1939
Department of Justice For the
attorney general Office
Washington D. C.



Dear Mr Murphy:

Will you please send an efficient
honest trustworthy investigator
at once to probe & also
investigate the cruel inhuman
unparalleled fraudulent acts
& misconduct of Agents acting
under the color of the ~~aaa~~
As we the Heirs of the ~~succession~~ of
Mr & Mrs John B. L
demand that the
misconduct of the
authorized Agents of
so please send some one
to investigate these complaints
as we have suffered & are
suffering irreparable injury
and act respectfully & 37
with Mrs. Agnes E. Lewis



SEARCHED & INDEXED

Department of Justice
Office of the Assistant to the Attorney General
Washington

August 7, 1939

2m
A MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

There is attached an anonymous letter,
together with three newspaper clippings, relative
to certain alleged conditions that exist in the
State of Louisiana, for whatever consideration
you may deem appropriate.

Matthew F. McGuire
Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
62-32577-2152

(a) 33



5-1-1938



Mr. O. John Rogge, Asst. U.S. Attorney,
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Rogge:

AUG-3-1938

I have given you plenty of real dope but here is a real one of greater importance to you than any heretofore.

There is a man on the present Federal Grand Jury named SPEED, who is connected with the Mundet Cork Co. He is giving valuable information to Seymour Weis, Maestri and the big political figures here. This man Speed has sold big orders for cork and floor coverings made by his firm, also corks, etc. to the new Charity Hospital and I am reliably informed it was a shady deal and a kickback in money. The political gang have this over him and he is telling them plenty of what goes on in the Grand Jury. The name is Speed, on the present jury. If you watch him and follow his footsteps and plug his telephone you will learn plenty. This is real true facts.

Now the matter of the bribed Shushan jury that was bought and who acquitted him of income tax frauds. The Negro doctor is named Seque, and has an office in the 2200 block on Dryades St. You people must have been working on this case because Shushan phoned the Negro doctor and told him not to do any talking to anyone until he saw him. The other man is named Ames, and he lives on Milan Street. He got a new Cadillac car and some cash. The third juror is named Roger Hutchison, who is a Desk Sergeant on the New Orleans Police Force. He got a new home and cash at intervals. There is one more juror but I can't learn his name. This is no idle dope.

Now the barrel house politician who so severely castigated you and Attorney General Murphy last night over the radio, namely Shirley Wimberley, is a law partner of Governor Earl Long. His record is rank for fraud and slick practices about town. He and another political lawyer in the partnership with Earl Long, namely, Glen Sehrt, both get \$400 per Month from the "Deducts" that they take from the pay of State employees. No wonder he raised such a howl over your investigation of Deducts. They all get their share, even Long. If you stick close to John Push, the man who handled the Deducts you will find out plenty. Push beat his income tax and owns several pieces of property and a large home at Bay St. Louis Miss.

I hope you will soon find out that the people of this State know this Wimberley and his tribe. This is the same stunts they pulled on General Ansell, etc. when they were down here investigating Huey Long and his crowd a few years ago. They blasted them on the radio and got out circulars on every lie they could think up on the Government men. This is done to try and get Murphy to fall off his men. They surely insulted Atty. General Murphy and you and several others.

You will also note all the apologies by Maestri and the Lawyer of William Helis about their oil connections. You know about a week ago they let out that nothing would come of the investigation because Elliott Roosevelt and Farley were linked with Helis in an oil deal that was shady. This came out of Bob Maestri's office.

34
170 St. 17th

62-32578-2056

Please send to Attorney General Murphy from now on all the newspaper letters from the people of this State that will write and rebuke this Waberley for this speech against you and Mr. Murphy, they will run in great numbers.

Please follow up this case of the man named Speed, now on the Grand Jury, who is telling all that goes on in the Jury Room to the politicians.

I get dope from the inside and will pass it on to you.

Mr. Murphy -

This man Waberley slandered your record and said "you were kicked out of Michigan" -

WIMBERLY RAPS FEDERAL PROBERS CITIZENS' GROUP

Warns Operatives Meddle in State and Defends De-ducks

Shirley Wimberly, associated in the practice of law with Governor Earl K. Long, Monday night accused operatives of the United States department of Justice of meddling into purely state affairs in Louisiana and warned them to "quit fooling around with state's rights."

Speaking over radio station WDSU, Mr. Wimberly made personal attacks on members of the citizens' voluntary committee of Louisiana, criticized The Times-Picayune and New Orleans States, and defended "de-ducks" as "the best system in politics."

Directing his remarks to "this fellow Rogge (O. John Rogge, assistant United States attorney-general)," the attorney said, "You are not going to run this state. You can tell your boss, Frank Murphy, that."

Warns Investigators

Mr. Wimberly warned federal investigators to "Confine yourselves within the confines of your sworn duty."

"You are just plain politicians, no better and no worse than the average," he asserted. "Don't you know that you are just pay-roll boys? Don't you know and I know that you pulled political wires to get where you are."

The speaker then referred to United States Attorney-General Murphy as "nothing more nor less than a common or garden variety of politician."

Intimates Retaliation

Mr. Wimberly later directed this remark to Mr. Rogge: "Quit fooling around with state's rights and attend to federal matters or the people of Louisiana are going to get mad at you."

"Your boss, Mr. Murphy, might want to run for president on the Democratic ticket," Mr. Wimberly asserted, then remarked: "There might be a few of us Louisiana boys who will take the stump in other states and tell the people what he thinks about state's rights."

Governmental Research, which have been transmitted to the Senate, said he would make

Hells Leaves; Details Maestri Link To Oil Properties

July 20, 1946, Shirley Wimberly, wealthy Louisiana oil operator, who has obtained oil concessions in the extraction of Greece, returned from that country today.

Mr. Cobb said he left Mr. Hells in Greece about two weeks ago, and the oil man was then engaged in drilling his third oil test in that country, and was making plans to start his fourth operation as soon as the drilling equipment could be moved to the new location.

The two completed tests were carried to a shallow depth and are classed as dry holes.

In reply to charges made that Mr. Hells was hiding out, the attorney denied the implication, and said "Mr. Hells will return to this country when his business affairs require his presence. It might be tomorrow and it might be a year from now, but at present his interests require him to be in Greece." Maestri Commission

Inquiries as to the location of the yacht, "William Hells," which has been moored near the Southern Yacht club for several weeks but recently left and no trace could be found in New Orleans revealed that the boat is now at the docks of the Edwards Transportation company, of Houston. Mr. Cobb said Mr. Hells owns an interest in the company which manufactures barges. "Too many people wanted to use the boat, so it was put over there," Mr. Cobb said.

The attorney said, "Mayor Maestri owns stock in the Canal-Oil company which is headed by Mr. Hells, and the company operates in several fields, notably the Iberia or Little Bayou field in Iberia parish. In addition to the Canal Oil company holdings which are on the Bernard tract, Mr. Hells, individually, owns other producing wells in the field.

Leche Not Linked

"A joint venture in the Valen-

ce field, Lafourche parish, is owned by Mayor Maestri and Hells."

Mr. Cobb said further, former Governor Leche is not interested in any of the Hells operations, and is not connected with any of the Hells companies in any way.

Reports that Mr. Hells was attempting to liquidate his holdings in the state were denied by Mr. Cobb. A reported deal with the Atlantic Refining company, the properties rated at being a \$10,000,000.00 sale was confirmed by Mr. Cobb, who said the terms of the deal were not satisfactory and he had recommended that the Hells interests turn down the offer. Details of the deal were not revealed.

"As for these reports that Mr. Hells is dealing in hot oil," Mr. Cobb said. "They are untrue and the facts will reveal themselves in due time."

No Comment

When asked about the statement made by the attorney, Mayor Maestri said he had "no comment to make."

Mr. Cobb visited the mayor in his office in the city hall this morning.

Money Unsafe Outside, He Swallows It

(By The Associated Press)

ALLEGTON, Pa., July 21.—Alvis Murray is satisfied he has found at last a safe place for his money.

Taken to a hospital by police after a street fight, Murray complained \$8 was missing from his wallet. He held up his last \$10 and said:

"Here's one ten nobody will get."

Then he swallowed it.

Have

Deadline F

PIES DESTROYED

36

MAESTRI DETAILS CONNECTION WITH OIL STOCK, WELLS

Mayor Declares He Has Made No Effort to Make Secret of Them

Mayor Robert S. Maestri Monday detailed his affiliations in the oil business with William Hells, asserting that "I have made no effort to make a secret of them." Mayor Maestri said he owns 50 per cent of the stock in the Canal Oil Company, which Mr. Hells heads, and that he and Mr. Hells jointly own three wells in the Valentine field in Lafourche parish. The Canal Oil Company operates in the Little Bayou field in Iberville parish and in the Leeville field, Lafourche parish.

The mayor's statement was in confirmation of one issued by Lloyd J. Cobb, attorney for Mr. Hells, in which Mr. Cobb said the mayor owns stock in the Canal Oil Company. Mr. Cobb returned Sunday from Greece, where Mr. Hells presently is making oil tests.

There Is No Secret
Mr. Cobb stated that Mayor Maestri "owns stock in the Canal Oil Company which is headed by Mr. Hells." Both he and Mayor Maestri said that Mr. Hells has other holdings in which the mayor is not interested.

"There is no secret of the fact that I am a stockholder in the Canal Oil Company," Mayor Maestri said. "That is a matter of public record in Lafourche and Iberville parishes where I have holdings. None of my dealings are done in secret; they are all above the board."

Mayor Maestri said that he and Mr. Hells have three producing wells in the Valentine field. "The drilling company gets 50 per cent, I get 25 per cent and Mr. Hells gets 25 per cent there," he said.

Operations in Greece
Mr. Cobb, who left Greece about two weeks ago, said that Mr. Hells was engaged then in drilling his third oil test in that country and planned to start a fourth operation soon. The first two tests, carried to a shallow depth, were classified as dry holes, he said.

Mr. Hells left New Orleans several months ago to effectuate a concession granted him in 1938 of the entire country of Greece for drilling purposes.

Challenges Anyone to Attack Reputation

Mayor Robert S. Maestri Monday challenged anyone to attack his reputation for honesty and said that except for that challenge he would remain silent for the present to attacks made against him.

He said he would remain silent even if the attacks are repeated and are made worse but that he would except from his silence this statement:

"I, as mayor of this city, have not taken a single dishonest dollar and I challenge any man to attack my reputation for honesty either personally or officially."

The mayor's statement follows: "There has been distributed in the last few days, in those portions of the city of New Orleans where it is considered that it would injure me most, copies of a newspaper published in a neighboring town, containing charges

of corruption and mismanagement in my administration. I have been compelled to take legal action either in the courts or personally, against the author of these charges. I have been compelled to do this for now some weeks.

It is a matter of public knowledge that federal and state grand juries are now in session investigating many matters of a governmental nature.

"What occurs before those grand juries, who appears before them, what is the result of the grand jury's investigation, cannot, by me, be gone into.

"Those investigations, I know, will be thorough.

"I have been advised that for the present I must not take any notice of the unfriendly attacks made upon me, that my lips are temporarily sealed in my own defense. I shall follow that advice, for the present.

"I have, as mayor, given this city a better government than it had in many a day, but let the people remember that no man can do everything at once. The public must be patient with me as I have been with many others. I shall proceed slowly but conscientiously and certainly in improving conditions in this city.

"The people must judge my actions in the future as mayor by what I have done in the past. I will remain silent even if the attacks are repeated and are made worse, but I must except this from my silence: I, as mayor of this city, have not taken a single dishonest dollar and I challenge any man to attack my reputation for honesty, either personally or officially.

"I ask those who have read the cruel and unjust slanders that have been cast at me to be as patient as I am. It is easier for them than it is for me.

"I feel certain I will be exonerated from all unjust charges that paper makes against me by higher authority than a slanderous newspaper, inspired by malice and a political ambition, which, to succeed, must destroy me."

RECORDED FOR ROME

37

AMERICAN AIR MAIL RETURN TO

NEW ORLEANS, LA.



To: Frank P. Murphy,
U. S. Attorney General,
Washington

Personal

SB-C.

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964

38

Baton Rouge La

July 11th, 1939

2m

In re: succession of
Mr & Mrs John B. Lewis
No 2918 - 25257 etc

Mr. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington D. C.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

Att. 1st & 2nd
new or
old & old
offices

62-32509-205

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The enclosed affidavit is self-explanatory.
Kindly investigate the complaint
which is made in good faith
& grant us speedy justice &
relief brought about through
bad faith & fraudulent acts of
incapable & dishonest persons
acting in violation of a ~~an~~ act
to defraud the Heirs of the above
estate #2918 (With Kind regards
address Gen Del. New Orleans, Miss Agnes E. Lewis,
respectfully 39

Babine Range La

July 11th, 1939

In re: succession of
Mr & Mrs John B. Lewis
No 2918 - 2525 & etc

Mr. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The enclosed affidavit is self-explanatory.
Kindly investigate the complaint
which is made in good faith
& grant us speedy justice &
relief brought about through
bad faith & fraudulent acts of
inecapable dishonest persons
acting in violation of a ~~act~~
to defraud the Heirs of the above
estate #2918

With kind regards
Yours truly,
John B. Lewis
New Orleans, Miss

Respectfully
John B. Lewis

Babine Range, La

July 11th, 1939

In re: succession of
Mr & Mrs John B. Lewis
No 2918 - 2525-tele

Mr. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The enclosed affidavit is self-explanatory.
Kindly investigate the complaint
which is made in good faith
& grant us speedy justice &
relief brought about through
bad faith & fraudulent acts of
incapable dishonest persons
acting in violation of a ~~act~~
to defraud the Heirs of the above
estate's #2918. With kind regards
address Gen. Ed. New Orleans Miss Agnes E. Lewis
respectfully

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 28 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Regan
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Lester
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-28-39 8-07 PM AHS

DIRECTOR

Received the 28th 1939
LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. R. M. LECHE WAIVED
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND TESTIFIED FEDERAL GRAND JURY,
NEW ORLEANS, TODAY. ROBERT M. LECHE, NEW ORLEANS MAYOR, ALSO TESTIFIED
BEFORE IT TODAY. GRAND JURY RECESSED UNTIL THIRTY FIRST NEXT. STATE
GRAND JURY, BATON ROUGE, RECESSED FOR TWO WEEKS, APPARENTLY TO PERMIT
INVESTIGATORS TO RUN OUT LEADS. OLIVER X CARRIERE, GRANDSON OF LATE
LOUISIANA CHIEF JUSTICE G. X PROVOSTY, APPOINTED TO LOUISIANA STATE
UNIVERSITY BOARD OF ~~RECEIVED~~ SUPERVISORS TO REPLACE D. M. ELLISON
ELLISON AND R. X TOFFEANIR, WHO WERE APPOINTED FROM SAME PARISH AT
SAME TIME, WERE CONSIDERED ILLEGALLY ON BOARD. MATHEW S. KERANIFF,
RECORDED & INDEXED
BATON ROUGE ATTORNEY, BOUND IMMEDIATELY TODAY ATTEMPTING TO COMPEL
DISCLOSURE OF NAME OF FEDERAL ATTORNEY, CHARGING THAT ONE OF THE
FEDERAL HELPING OFFICES ILLEGALLY. KERANIFF APPEARS TO BE ~~RECEIVED~~
FUMETATO, 1000, AS IS REQUESTED IN THIS ARTICLE. THIS IS THE END OF
THIS WIRE. THE WIRE IS TO BE RETURNED TODAY.

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 944

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
July 29, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

Mr. G. W. HOLLAND, Head of the Petroleum Conservation Division, United States Department of Interior, Washington, D. C., called at the New Orleans Division office on July 26, 1939, at which time he requested that any information received by this Bureau relative to violations of the Connally Act be transmitted to CLIFFORD C. ROWLAND, who is in charge of the investigation of violations of the Connally Act in this district. Mr. HOLLAND was advised that instructions given to this office by the Bureau were to the effect that all reports of alleged violations over which this Bureau has no investigative jurisdiction in connection with this case, should be submitted to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. HOLLAND appeared to feel that cooperation in this matter would not be wholly given unless the information received by this office relative to violations of the Connally Act were transmitted directly to Mr. ROWLAND.

Special Agent C. W. DUNKER, while communicating with Mr. Tamm of the Bureau on other matters, informed him of the request of Mr. HOLLAND; however, Mr. Tamm advised that information received by this office pertaining to alleged irregularities over which this office has no investigative jurisdiction should be referred to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, as previously directed by the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett
B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

CWD:ALS
62-978

RECORDED

43

203

43

August 11, 1939

ACH:LL

RECORDED

62-32509-202

66-1045-61

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

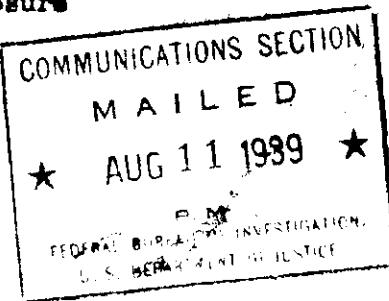
There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of an anonymous letter dated at Shreveport, Louisiana, July 29, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General by an "American," and referred to the Bureau. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

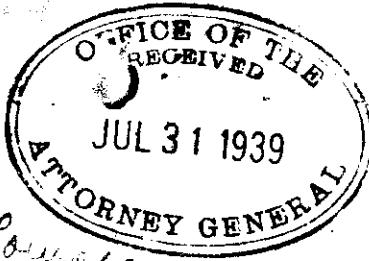
Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Smith _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

Inclosure



SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

29-39



Dear Sir

Mr. Justice - Louisiana

MARSTR

Marste arranged Senator Ellender
to report to him in N.O.
Marste thinking Glass getting too friendly
with your men and not giving him the
information he wants
It seems that Christianberry in the U.S.
opposed who is Marste shot pay avon
for not been reporting enough to Marste
and he wants all the facts as produced at
each session or daily meeting of grand
jury of the time Ellender arranged at N.O.
Christianberry did not or at least Marste
did not think that he was getting full info.
The opinion here is that if enough evidence
can be secured against some major actors in
this drama to indict them there will be a full
confession for immunity.
The fear of doing this is because of Marste
does not hesitate to further himself
An investigation in N.O alone should and no doubt
would start a million dollar N.O. A start in
the municipal work in N.O. with padded
pay rolls etc etc

8/11/39 - 20.11

RECORDED COPY HELD

To
Hon Frank Murphy
Washington DC

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

REC'D 1 1 39

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

45

COPY
(ED)

Shreveport, Louisiana

7-29-39

Dear Sir:

Marstn ordered Senator Ellender to report to him in N. O.

Marstn thinking Vraso getting too friendly with your men and not giving him the information he wants.

It seems that Christianberry is the U. S. officer who is Marstn's stool pigeon has not been reporting enough to Marstn and he wants all the facts as presented (?) at each session or daily meeting of Grand Jury.

Up to the time Ellender arrived at N.O. Christianberry did not or at least Marstn did not think that he was getting full reports. The opinion here is that if enough evidence can be secured against some major acts in this drama to indict him there will be a full confession ~~for~~ emnunity.

The fear of doing this is because of Marstn who does not hesitate to protect himself. An investigation in N. O. alone should and no doubt would show a million dollar WPA start on the Municipal Work in N.O. With padded pay rolls etc etc

American

To
Hon Frank Murphy
Washington, D.C.

FILED DESTROYED

7-17-1939

46

August 10, 1939

ACH:LL

62-32509 181, 193, and 201

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies each of the following described communications, which were received by the Attorney General and referred to the Bureau, and it is desired that one copy of each be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Kenner A. Viosca, New Orleans:

Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, July 24, 1939, beginning, "Is there any truth to the terrible slanderous information...."

Letter dated at New Orleans, July 23, 1939, from Marguerite A. Richardson, et al.

Letter dated at New Orleans, July 23, 1939, from Alexander Brownsdale.

None of these communications has been acknowledged.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sims _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. O. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

Inclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION *John Edgar Hoover*
Director

MAILED

★ AUG 10 1939 ★

2:30 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

47

OFFICE OF THE
RECEIVED

JUL 31 1939

ATTORNEY GENERAL

JUL 16, 1939

Mr. Dear Mr. Murphy:

As an attorney who desires that the national government and particularly the department of justice be held in respect and in esteem by the public, I feel it my duty to urge you to insist on an honest cleanup of this terrible mess that makes Kansas City and Chicago look contemptible.

It is sad but true that the decent people of Louisiana feel left down and held out when the department of justice under Mr. Clegg dropped the income tax cases several years ago against J. M. ~~our~~ Weiss and the other ~~big~~ ~~bad~~ ~~law~~ ~~men~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~ ~~and~~ ~~not~~ ~~one~~ ~~single~~ ~~plunderer~~ in the entire nation.

The second article of my writing now is that Mr. Clegg will not do his duty and he did for this present administration what he did for the last administration.

Mr. Clegg will not call off the dogs, had not let the dog know that they could go as far as they wanted in criminal and in corruption--even to the ~~constitution~~ ~~the~~ ~~work~~ ~~of~~ ~~Louisians~~ through their manipulations at the state university, the ~~big~~ ~~bad~~ ~~law~~ ~~men~~ would never have prospered.

Finally, I feel that the do well and the justice department is a good place to begin and that it is up to you to do the same throughout with this thing this time.

Very truly yours, Alexander Bromiley
8/10/39 - 2

Alexander Bromiley, August 11 and again August 12, 1939
to the office of the attorney general, to urge him to insist and
to insist on an honest and to come out with the ~~big~~ ~~bad~~ ~~law~~ ~~men~~
and to do the same throughout.

Alexander Bromiley

46

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

JBH:DC

62-32509-200

August 12, 1939

RECORDED

Mr. J. W. Johnson
Post Office Box 705
Laredo, Texas

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Your letter dated July 26, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General has been referred to me.

On behalf of the Attorney General I wish to express appreciation for your spirit of cooperation and your interest in law enforcement.

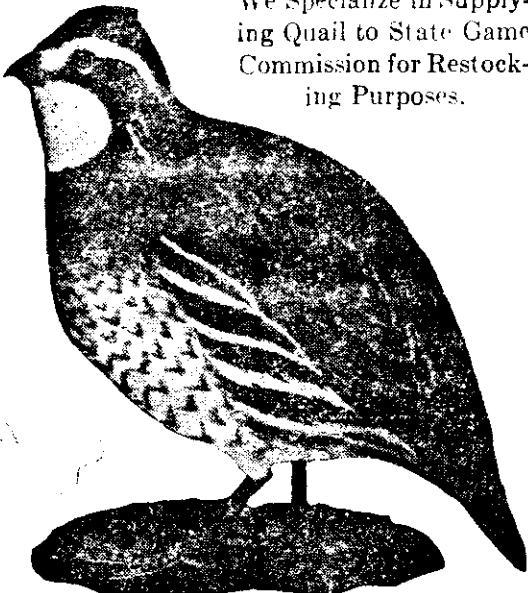
Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc-San Antonio (with copies of incoming letter)

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ AUG 12 1939 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

49



We Specialize in Supplying Quail to State Game Commission for Restocking Purposes.

ESTABLISHED 1914

American Mexican Bird & Animal Co.

J. W. JOHNSON, GENERAL MANAGER

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS OF

LIVE ANIMALS, BIRDS AND REPTILES FOR ZOOLOGICAL, PROPAGATING AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

TEXAS GAME BREEDING PERMIT NO. 1-550-25-18

RECEIVED

P. O. BOX 705

LAREDO, TEXAS

JUL 29 1939

7/26/39

OFFICE OF THE
U. S. ATTORNEY

U. S. Attorney General Murphy
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Have just read with much interest the articles appearing in the Assn. Press regarding your splendid work cleaning up New Orleans of all the rotten politicians there. You have the respect and best wishes from a large number of our citizens in this District and we hope that you carry the work on in New Orleans to a complete finish, the same as you did in Kansas City.

This District has suffered with the same troubles as the good citizens of New Orleans and Kansas City, had to endure, until you stepped into the fight and sent a large number of them to the Penitentiary where they belong.

We are still hoping that your Dept. will carry out the investigation promised us some time ago. Again assuring you of my hearty co-operation in this very necessary investigation at an early date.

I am as ever,

Yours for justice,

J. W. Johnson

J.W. Johnson

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

50

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EAT:HA

JULY 27 1939

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

62-32509-199
Transmit the following message to:

RECORDED

SAC
NEW ORLEANSLOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING
AUTHORITY GRANTED INVESTIGATE PETIT JURY PAKE

HOOVER

CODE

JUL 27 1939 PM '39
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Tamm
Mr. E. T. Felt
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. E. A. Tamm

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CODED AND SERIALIZED

LINES DESTROYED
SENT VIA AIR MAIL
170 SEP 17 1964

Per

51

DECODED COPY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 25 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. English	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Gandy	
Mr. Healy	
Mr. Johnson	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

FBI NEW ORLEANS

7-25-39

12-25 PM ALS

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. WILLIAM G. RANKIN RESIGNED AS COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION OF LOUISIANA, AND ERNEST S. CLEMENTS, STATE SENATOR FROM OBERLIN, LA., APPOINTED TO POSITION. LESTER E. FRAZER WHO ASSUMED L. P. ABERNATHYS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION LAST WEEK RESIGNED, AND WARREN RAGGIO, FORMER CHAIRMAN LOUISIANA TAX COMMISSION, APPOINTED. DR. JAMES. A. SHAW DISMISSED JULY EIGHTH, REINSTATED AS DIRECTOR OF MINERAL DIVISION CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT. FOREGOING CHANGES TOOK PLACE JULY TWENTY FOURTH. GEORGE W. HOLLAND, DIRECTOR OF OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, ARRIVED NEW ORLEANS TO ASSIST IN HOT OIL INVESTIGATION. RENE VIOSCA, USA, NEW ORLEANS, ADVISED JUDGE WAYNE G. BORAH CONTEMPLATED REPLACING H. J. CARTER, NEW ORLEANS U. S. CLERK OF COURT, A REPUBLICAN AND AN OLK MAN, WITH A DEMOCRAT ABOUT AUGUST FIFTEEN, THIRTY NINE. VIOSCA REQUESTED IMMEDIATE DISCREET INVESTIGATION PRESENT PETIT JURY PANEL EVEN THOUGH APPOINTMENT NEW U. S. CLERK OF COURT WOULD NECESSITATE

REMOVED DESTROYED
FBI - NEW ORLEANS

7/27/39
27/7/39

PAGE TWO

A NEW PANEL INDICATION DEPUTY CLERK PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE SOME NAMES
ON PRESENT PANEL MIGHT BE USED IN TRIAL OF MAIL FRAUD CASE PRESENTLY
PENDING. VIOSCA ADVISED THAT O. JOHN ROGGE TO CONFER WITH ATTORNEY
GENERAL RELATIVE TO TRANSFERRING HILARY J GAUDIN ASSISTANT U S
ATTORNEY NEW ORLEANS TO CALIFORNIA OR ~~TO OTHER~~ GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
INSTEAD OF HAVING HIM RESIGN

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC GDH

53

ACH:LL

August 12, 1939

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of a letter dated July 27, 1939, received by the Bureau from Mr. James K. Hanson, of Morgan City, Louisiana, together with two copies of the Bureau's reply thereto. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

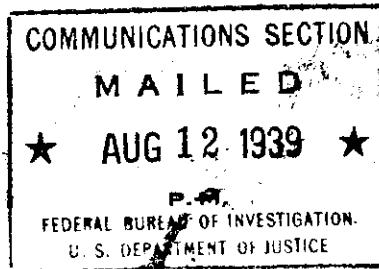
Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

AUG 12 1939
RECEIVED DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

Inclosure



54

ACH:LL
62-32509-198

RECORDED

August 12, 1939

Mr. James E. Hanson
1100 Fourth Street
Morgan City, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Hanson:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, 1939, concerning gambling in Morgan City.

I wish to advise that I have carefully noted the contents of your letter and fail to note a violation of any Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. However, I suggest that in the event you do possess such information, you may be desirous of furnishing complete details direct to Mr. B. E. Sackett, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 1308 Masonic Temple Building, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The information contained in your letter has been referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

★ AUG 12 1939 Letter
Furnished to N. . . by
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Date)
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

55

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowley _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
AUG 12 1939
106 PM '39

Morgan City, Louisiana

July 27, 1939

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

Director, The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I wish to call to your attention something of grave importance taking place in this part of the country, which there seems no possible way to remedy without calling on you for assistance.

The question of open gambling and the slot machines: They are causing untold suffering among the people, and I have personally taken the matter up with the Sheriff, and was told he had no authority to do anything concerning the matter unless he had orders from the governor of this state.

You undoubtedly have seen the crooked and unscrupulous things taking place in our government of this state.

So is there any wonder the sheriff of this county wouldn't uphold the gambling and slot machines?

I wish it was possible for me to speak to you personally concerning this matter. Then I could express myself more clearly.

There has been several slot machines taken by young boys in this town lately and they have been arrested but nothing has been done about the matter. Therefore if the machines were within the law they would have been prosecuted.

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

If it is possible for you to send one of your men to this town without the authorities knowing anything about it, I will be glad to

JUL 30 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

56
THC

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RAG:RLA

July 26, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. Tamm

Time: 11:55 P.M.

In response to a telephone call received earlier this evening, I telephoned Special Agent Dunker at New Orleans, and advised him that permission had been given to maintain a surveillance on Dr. James J. Shaw tonight. I ascertained that Mr. O. John Rogge, Assistant Attorney General, now in New Orleans, had verbally requested the surveillance of Shaw.

Special Agent Dunker advised that the Assistant Attorney General had made another request on the telephone tap of the New Orleans Mayor, the details of which would be included in his letter to the Bureau tomorrow.

I instructed Special Agent Dunker to advise the Bureau of further developments.

Respectfully,

R. A. Guerin
R. A. Guerin
Night Supervisor

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

60-32507-197

51

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 60-32507-19750

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:COH

July 27, 1939

Time: 4:35 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN
LOUISIANA

Agent Dunker called from New Orleans in connection with certain developments in the above situation.

Assistant Attorney General Rogge has requested that Bureau Agents place a wire tap on the home of Robert Maestri, Mayor of New Orleans. Mr. Rogge has not gone into detail concerning this request as yet with Mr. Dunker but the latter wanted the Bureau's reaction to such a request. The tap is not to be maintained in connection with a case over which the Bureau has original investigative jurisdiction but will relate to income tax and hot oil cases. Mr. Rogge, according to Agent Dunker, made the request of the Bureau as he knew the facilities for such an assignment are available.

I pointed out to Mr. Dunker that the other Agencies also are equipped for wire tapping. I instructed him to inform Mr. Rogge that a matter of this kind is something Mr. Hoover has to pass upon personally and that his request will be brought to the Director's attention in order that if necessary he may take it up with the Department.

Mr. George West Holland, Director of the Petroleum Conservation Division of the Department of Interior, has requested that all information received relative to hot oil investigations be transmitted directly to Mr. Rowland, the man in charge in New Orleans. According to Mr. Dunker, previous instructions were to submit the information to the United States Attorney. I instructed Mr. Dunker to continue to submit the information to the U. S. Attorney.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Mr. Dunker stated that U. S. Attorney Viosca has made a request for an Accountant to assist in the hot oil investigation. However, he understands that two Accountants from the Federal Tender Board are now in New Orleans assisting in this investigation and he does not know whether this request will stand. I told him the Director would pass on this.

12-12141-1749
RECORDED COPY FILED IN

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964

MEMO FOR THE FILE

7-27-39

Mr. Dunker stated the surveillance was maintained on James A. Shaw last night. Nothing occurred except that a taxi drove up at 1:00 a.m. The license number was obtained but it was considered inadvisable to check with the cab company as the same is connected with the Mayor and other individuals involved in the investigation. In this connection, Mr. Rogge has informed Mr. Dunker that Shaw has made a confession before the Grand Jury admitting he received \$30,000.00 on which he failed to report any income tax. Mr. Rogge has stated the surveillance may be discontinued. I told Mr. Dunker he could drop the matter of checking on the taxi-cab.

E. A. Tamm

59

1508 Masonic Temple Building,
New Orleans, Louisiana

July 26, 1939

Honorable Ruey Vicens,
United States Attorney,
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS
Information Concerning

Enclosed herewith are photostatic copy of envelope addressed to the Attorney General and the letter contained therein, mailed at Shreveport, Louisiana, June 30, 1939. This letter relates to the present irregularities in Louisiana.

The informant, TOM, about whom your office has previous communications, again contacted this office July 23, 1939, at which time he advised that JIMMY MORRISON was scheduled to speak over radio station WDSU July 26, 1939. This informant advised that he believed MORRISON would be able to supply a great deal of information relative to the irregularities of DR. CLARENCE LORIO and irregularities in Louisiana in general.

Very truly yours,

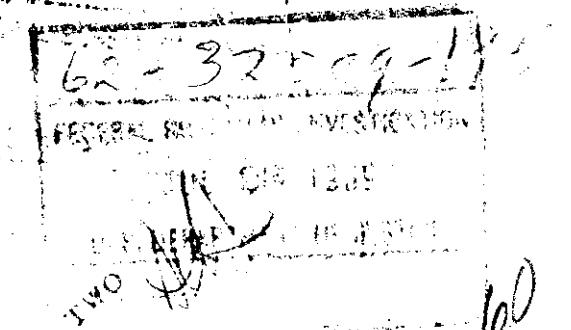
B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures

CWD:sh
#62-978

cc Bureau

INDEXED



ABM 12A 193

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RECORDED

62-32509 - 188 - 191 - 192 and 193

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sirs

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of the following described communications, which were received by the Attorney General and referred to the Bureau, together with two copies of the Bureau's replies thereto, and it is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans:

Letter dated at Crowley, Louisiana, July 24, 1939, from Mr. Lawrence G. Pugh.

Letter dated at New Orleans, July 27,
1939, from Mrs. Marie Hebert Holbrook.

Letter dated at Camden, New Jersey, July 27, 1939, from Mr. Frank H. Spuhler.

Letter dated at Monroe, Louisiana, July 24, 1939, from Mr. George A. Chiasson.

Very truly yours,

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

John Edgar Hoover

AUG 12 1939 Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Inclosure

AUG 12 1907 PM '35
RECEIVED 6-1

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

ACH:LL

62-32509-195

RECORDED

August 12, 1939

Mr. George A. Chiasson
Post Office Box 55
Moss, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Chiasson:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 24, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States, concerning crime conditions in Louisiana, which letter was referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

I have perused the contents of your letter and fail to note definite information concerning a violation of any Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. However, I suggest that in the event you do possess such information, you may be desirous of furnishing the same to United States Attorney Hale A. Viosca, New Orleans.

I wish to advise further that the data contained in your communication are being furnished to Mr. Viosca.

Very truly yours,

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

★ AUG 12 1939 ★ John Edgar Hoover
P. M. Director

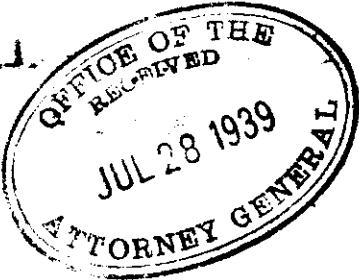
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lawler _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sears _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECEIVED - DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 12 1939
107 PM '39

(A copy of this letter furnished
A. G. by cover letter of even date)

68



P. O. Box 55-

Moss, Louisiana.

July 24 1939,

24
X
Attorney General -

Washington - D. C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-32509-15

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 24 1939

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

WFO

Dear Sir -

I am a resident of the ~~Fifth~~
Ward - Acadia Parish, ~~Levittville~~.
My home is two miles south
east of the village of Moss, La.

I have been trying to get things
straightened out here in my Ward
since 1934 - I have been unable to
do so - I have affidavits of
^{8/12/39-6th. Act. no.}
fraud - but our Attorney General
in Louisiana, no District Attorney
here don't seem to think this
should be pushed so far - they

523

didn't put it in words like that
but, no action is the best words
they could have used - and up to
date there has been no action
taken - would it be possible for
one to be called with all of the
information I have - I would be
willing to testify any time you
want me to. I am a poor man
but I think its time us poor
people try and keep the crooked
office holders from pulling us
out -

... And its a disgrace the way our
elections are handled here - I really
think I could give you facts here that
would make this a better place to
live in - providing you take
actions -

I was a candidate for member of
Police Juries here last General election.
There are three precincts in this ward -
I was represented at one - I beat them
at the one I had representation -

When there W. P. A. workers on a
road project - and this particular
road that W. P. A. workers on is
being gravelled - who pays for this
gravel? - supposing some of this
gravel is stolen - what action should
be taken? I have a letter here sent
to Mr. Telling such has happened
here August 4, 1938 up to date
I know of no action taken - this is
small - but a small thief makes
a large thief, state on, same as
a small pig gets to be a hog if
you don't interfere with him. 65

I am an Exsoldier - I served in
the Regulars U.S. Army from Decemb.
1916 - to Decemb 1920, I was in
Battery Q. 7th Field artillery during
the war - First American Division -
I was in France two years. or in
two hundred days on firing line
so you can understand I want
things to be as straight as possible
that's what we fought for then - so
why not now?

Further more - I doubt if the Vets were
counted right in January 1936 -
Please Mr. Murphy see that I
get a chance to at least be able
to be called before your men at
Baton Rouge - or New Orleans, or
one of your very able assistants.

could come to my home here - and
be in private - in other words, I am
ready to talk any place - and
at any time you choose, all you
have to do is say when and where
and I'll be there if God says the
same -

I know this letter sounds like some
one begging - but if you would be
in any fix you would beg too -

Here's hoping you give this your
very able attention -

I am,
respectfully yours

George A. Chaisson

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

New Orleans, Louisiana

FILE NO. 62-983

SMW:ALS

REPORT MADE AT NEW ORLEANS	DATE WHEN MADE 7-27-39	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-17, 18, 22 & 24-39	REPORT MADE BY R. L. SHIVERS
TITLE HILARY J. GAUDIN			CHARACTER OF CASE INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Assistant U. S. Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE requested investigation as to Asst. U. S. Atty. HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, as possibly favoring SEYMOUR WEISS and others in mail fraud violations. GAUDIN is an appointee in office of U. S. Atty., New Orleans, on behalf of SEYMOUR WEISS and has stated he does not believe WEISS guilty of mail fraud. It is understood GAUDIN may be transferred to office of U. S. Atty. another section of country, or to the Judge Advocate General's department of the War Department, if possible.

P

DETAILS: This investigation resulted from a request made of the New Orleans Office by Assistant United States Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE, who desired information as to the possibility that Assistant United States Attorney HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, Louisiana, may be favoring certain prospective defendants in New Orleans, namely; SEYMOUR WEISS, MONTE HART, and others involved in mail fraud investigations in New Orleans and vicinity. This request was made of Special Agent R. L. SHIVERS, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Office, on July 16, 1939, and authority was received from the Bureau to make the investigation requested by Mr. ROGGE.

The writer was assigned to assist in investigation of other matters being handled by Mr. GAUDIN in order to discreetly conduct the investigation possible in this matter. During this association with Mr. GAUDIN, he volunteered the information that he and the other Assistant United States Attorneys, stating that four of them altogether were all political appointees

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

July 27, 1939

PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

AIR MAIL -
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: HILARY J. GAUDIN;
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is the report of Special Agent S. M. WOLF, New Orleans, dated July 27, 1939, in the above-entitled case.

The latest information in this case is that Mr. O. JOHN ROGGE of the Department of Justice was to discuss this matter with the Attorney General, relative to transferring HILARY J. GAUDIN to another part of the country or to another government department. However, this office does not know of the Attorney General's decision in this matter.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

62-983
CWD:ALS
Enclosure

62-32809 174

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and were obliged to be careful in their associations in and about New Orleans at the present time because of investigations now being made of persons such as SEYMOUR WEISS, MONTE HART and others, who are believed to wield considerable political influence. Mr. GAUDIN also volunteered the information to the writer during the course of casual conversation that he was interested only in SEYMOUR WEISS, who has been indicted for mail fraud; that he believed MONTE HART would probably be guilty of almost anything, and he desired to see him convicted. Mr. ROGGE was given the information developed to this point, as was Special Agent R. L. SHIVERS, then Acting Special Agent in Charge.

During subsequent association with Mr. GAUDIN, he advised voluntarily that he did not believe that SEYMOUR WEISS is guilty in connection with the mail fraud indictment against him at the present time; that the only way he will believe WEISS guilty is to be convinced from the evidence produced in open court. He stated he is an appointee in the office of the United States Attorney on behalf of SEYMOUR WEISS and said fortunately he does not have to prosecute mail fraud violations, and that if he were prosecuting this type of violation he would either have to resign or be excused from participation in the case against SEYMOUR WEISS. This additional information relative to Mr. GAUDIN was furnished Mr. ROGGE by Special Agent SHIVERS and the writer in the New Orleans Bureau Office.

It was ascertained that at a conference between United States Attorney RENE VIOSCA, Mr. ROGGE and Mr. GAUDIN, which occurred July 22, 1939, in New Orleans, discussion was had as to the possible resignation of Mr. GAUDIN, and the matter was left pending until it was determined if it would be possible to transfer Mr. GAUDIN to the office of the United States Attorney in some other part of the country, preferably, Los Angeles, California, or to the Judge Advocate General's Department of the United States Army.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION:

At NEW ORLEANS, will follow the developments in the office of the United States Attorney as to Assistant United States Attorney HILARY J. GAUDIN.

PENDING

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

REPORT MADE ON **7-17-39** DATE WHEN MADE **7-17-39** PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE **18, 28 & 34-39** REPORT MADE BY **R. M. HOLLOWAY**

TITLE

HILARY J. GAUDIN

CHARACTER OF CASE

INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Assistant U. S. Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE requested investigation as to Ass't. U. S. Atty. HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, as possibly favoring SEYMOUR WEISS and others in mail fraud violations. GAUDIN is an appointee in office of U. S. Atty., New Orleans, on behalf of SEYMOUR WEISS and has stated he does not believe WEISS guilty of mail fraud. It is understood GAUDIN may be transferred to office of U. S. Atty. another section of country, or to the Judge Advocate General's department of the War Department, if possible.

DETAILS:

This investigation resulted from a request made of the New Orleans Office by Assistant United States Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE, who desired information as to the possibility that Assistant United States Attorney HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, Louisiana, may be favoring certain prospective defendants in New Orleans, namely; SEYMOUR WEISS, MONTE HART, and others involved in mail fraud investigations in New Orleans and vicinity. This request was made of Special Agent R. L. SHIVERS, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Office, on July 16, 1939, and authority was received from the Bureau to make the investigation requested by Mr. ROGGE.

The writer was assigned to assist in investigation of other matters being handled by Mr. GAUDIN in order to discreetly conduct the investigation possible in this matter. During this association with Mr. GAUDIN, he volunteered the information that he and the other Assistant United States Attorneys, stating that four of them altogether were all political appointees

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IN CHARGE

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3 Bureau
2 New Orleans

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.
July 27, 1939

EAT:TEB

Time 8:30 p. m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN
LOUISIANA

I called Agent Dunker at New Orleans with reference to Assistant Attorney General Rogge's request that the Bureau place a telephone tap on the home of Robert Maestri, Mayor of New Orleans, which request is mentioned in the attached memorandum. I told Mr. Dunker this was out of the question; that we do not tap telephones and if Mr. Rogge wants this done the organization handling the matter in which he is interested should be requested to do this.

With reference to the request for an accountant in connection with the hot oil investigation, I told Mr. Dunker that as they already have two accountants from the Federal Tender Board let them get another one from there; that we do not have any accountants available.

E. A. Tamm

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&
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62-32507-193

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